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J. P. BYRON

IN A BLAZE OF GLORY
THE DRAMATIC EXIT OF OLD CAP FROM LIFE'S STAGE.
 He Lived a Wild Life and Wanted a Wild Death, and He Secured a Wild Audience to See Him Do His Final Wild Act.
 "The longing for the center of the stage exists not only in the centers of civilization," said a man who had gone west, made his pile in mining and come back to enjoy himself. "You'll find it, up in the Rockies among the hardest, toughest citizens that ever handled a pick or shot a bear. The melodramatic instinct is a mighty strong in most men, and the glare of the calcium is eagerly sought after by many who won't admit it. I knew an old man out in Arizona some years ago who was one of this kind. He was the most 'short' give a damn' cuss I ever knew. He lived up in the mountains, about ten miles back of Tucson, all by himself."
 "How he managed to live I never knew, but he seemed contented. His evil deeds never seemed to worry him any, and the Lord knows his record was black enough. He had been a great gun fighter in his time, and even in the days I speak of he wouldn't do to 'read in the toes. He loved to tell of his wild life, and the frankness with which he related his somewhat questionable escapades made him an excellent entertainer if you didn't happen to feel squeamish. Squeamishness isn't a common fault out that way, and everybody knew and liked Old Cap—that's what they called him—except the few who had been in trouble with him at one time or another."
 "Now, no one ever thought that Old Cap was spectacular. He was the last man on earth who would be thought likely to want the center of the stage for any of his stunts. But he did, and the climax of his life was more pyrotechnical than any man's I ever got mixed up with. He certainly did go out in a blaze of glory. It all happened about seven years ago. I was in Tucson. A lot of us boys were sitting around in front of a ginmill one afternoon, just talking about things in general. Our horses were tied in the yard at the back. It was a mighty fine day, just warm enough for solid comfort out of doors, and with the sky as clear as absolute dryness could make it. It was one of those days, you know, when you throw your chest out and congratulate yourself on being alive."
 "As I was saying, we all sat on easy wicker chairs, talking and whittling I reckon, when down the street came a 10-year-old boy riding a broncho. We recognized him as a youngster who lived a couple of miles this side of Old Cap's on the same trail. He rode right up to where we were sitting and rolled off his horse, with his eyes popping and his mouth a-panting."
 "What's the matter, baby?" asked a tall Texan, who was in the party.
 "Old Cap says 'I come right up 'n' his place right off an fetch all the men for kin ght. 'D' 'Injuns is comin'!"
 "The Indians were always liable to bust loose and do something nobody suspected, so we got our horses out in a jiffy and started up the trail to save Old Cap. There were about a dozen of us, and we had our Winchester and six-shooters with us. When we got near to Old Cap's we slowed up a bit and began to look pretty sharp for Indians, but not a sign of a redskin could we see."
 "We'll be in time, boys," said the Texan, who was leading the band. "If we get to Old Cap's cabin we kin stand off a pretty smart lot!"
 "Old Cap's cabin was situated in a clearing off the trail around a bend, with high rocks hiding it until you came out in the open. We reached the turn in safety and swept around it at full gallop. There we saw, first of all, the little cabin looking as snug as usual, and then we noticed Old Cap sitting astride a keg about ten feet in front of his door. His big, gray, scraggy beard was cocked to one side, and the red scarf about his neck gave him the look of a stage hero of the plains. He had heard our horses' hoofs beating the rocky trail behind us, we wheeled into view, and he was ready for us. Waiting until we had come within 20 yards of him, he lifted his hat and moved it above his head with a hoarse, wild yell. As I think of it now it sounded like the cry of a madman. Then he reached into his pocket and drew forth a match. This he threw carefully across a rock which was within reach of the keg upon which he sat, and aiming it from the breeze until it was safely lighted he opened his legs and dropped

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HENRY RANG OFF.
 But When He Got Home That Night There Was Trouble.
 Apropos of nothing in particular—unless it be electricity—I heard a druggist tell of a little occurrence in his shop the other day.
 He was alone and putting up a prescription behind his large partition screen when a stylishly dressed woman entered and asked with some excitement for the telephone.
 He announced her in front of it and returned to his work.
 She took off her gloves, rang up "central" and began:
 "217D—street. Yes, yes. Mr. Henry Wecker. Yes, yes. He's at No. — Beechman street. Yes. Oh, is that Mr. Wecker?"
 Then her voice hardened.
 "Henry, why did you tell me you went to Philadelphia Thursday? What? No, you did not. I know better. Don't you stand there and lie to me like that! No, I won't! What do I care for the girl in the telephone office? You just attend to me and let her alone! I'm in a drug store. They're not listening at all. I want an explanation. No, indeed, I will not wait till you come home tonight. By that time you'll have hatched up a fine story and brought up a couple of brutes to swear to it. Mrs. Wallace says he heard you at the club Thursday night and that you were going out to play poker all night. Oh, no, he isn't! He's a very nice man, and I am much obliged to him. You wouldn't dare do anything of the kind! What! You won't, oh? Well, you'll talk when you get home! Here, wait a moment. Don't shut off!"
 But the silence was over, and she paid her 15 cents and stalked out with flashing eyes that belied her for the lively Henry—Clatskanie Enquirer.

EFFECTS OF CHLOROFORM.
 Such That Burglars Would Not Use It on Sleeping Persons.
 That burglars of the more advanced type can and do use chloroform. In the commission of their crimes is a better widely held and rarely contradicted, and yet there is, curiously, little foundation for the idea. The most familiar with the administration and effects of anesthetics assert that there is no foundation at all for it except in the imagination of sensational writers and in the words of people whose losses cannot safely be explained by statements of fact. The question has been raised recently by several robberies in which a chloroform is said to have been employed, and opinions of the experts are strongly against the possibility of such use. One of the physicians interviewed is quoted as saying:
 "As far as known chloroform and ether have never taken effect on a healthy sleeping person without that person knowing it. Both of these anesthetics are at first stimulating and invigorating in their effect and will arouse a sleeping person. The entire system is excited, and the heart beats violently and fast. The use of either chloroform or ether or any other anesthetic by burglars is absurd. It frequently takes physicians with their various appliances from 10 to 15 minutes to get a person under the influence of either of these anesthetics, and often a patient will become so stimulated and active before the effect is secured that it requires several strong men to hold him."
 The idea that the mere introduction of chloroform into a room would cause unconsciousness was derided as absurd. Even if doors and windows were air tight it would take several gallons of either anesthetic to so fill a room with the heavy fumes as to affect a sleeper on a bed of average height. And the first effect would be, not deep sleep, but excited wakefulness. The chances are, then, that when anybody claims to have been chloroformed by burglars there is something queer about the case.—New York Times.

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